

R.A.A.F Association – Victorian Division
Sunderland Branch



A.C.N. 004250 248

Incorporating 10 Squadron RAAF, the first RAAF Squadron in action in W.W.II;
461 Squadron RAAF, The Anzac Squadron; and 13 RAF Squadrons

3 February 2023

SPRING – SUMMER 2022

Sunderlanders and friends.

Happy New Year to all Sunderlanders and friends. I trust that 2023 will be a Good Year for everyone.

I apologise for the late production of this Spring/Summer 2022-23 Newsletter. It has been a long time since we commemorated Anzac Day but the pressures of work and Covid have delayed my best efforts to produce the Newsletter.

Just before Anzac Day I received a communication from Flt Lt Richard (Dick) King of 10 Squadron RAF. He was seeking assistance for a young lady in South Australia who was seeking information about her Great Great Uncle, Joseph Colwyn Kelly who served as an Air Gunner with 10 Squadron and was lost over the Bay of Biscay in 1943. I have provided a brief outline of WO Kelly's service history below.

The young lady, Olivia, a year 10 student was researching for an entry in the South Australian Premier's Anzac Spirit School Prize. The prize is an opportunity for all South Australian Year 9 and 10 students to research someone in World War One or World War Two.

After much research, Olivia submitted her comprehensive entry about her Great Great Uncle 407986 Warrant Officer Joseph Colwyn Kelly. Once shortlisted by a panel consisting of representatives from RSL of South Australia, the Virtual War Memorial Australia and the History Teachers' Association of South Australia, she was interviewed by representatives of the Premier's Anzac Spirit School Prize. An extensive selection process.

In November Olivia will be presented with a certificate and medal. As part of the award she will participate in a 12-day study trip to Darwin or possibly Vietnam if covid settles down. While in Darwin she will potentially speak at the Darwin Anzac Day Ceremony. Congratulations to Olivia.

A copy of the announcement of Olivia's award is below.

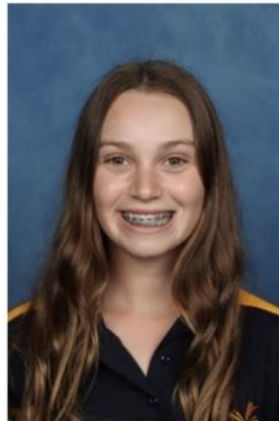
Premier's ANZAC Spirit School Prize

Congratulations to year 10 student Olivia Brook who has been selected as an awardee for the 2022 Premier's ANZAC Spirit School Prize.

Olivia's submission was considered by a judging panel consisting of representatives from the Returned Services League (RSL) of SA, the Virtual War Memorial Australia and the History Teachers' Association of South Australia. Following the initial judging round, Olivia attended an interview in Adelaide with representatives of the Premier's Anzac Spirit School Prize.

Olivia will be presented with a certificate and medal in November, and has been invited to attend a 12-day study seminar in the Northern Territory in 2023 (or potentially to Vietnam, depending on COVID restrictions). Her submission will also be published on the Virtual War Memorial Australia website.

Olivia's submission told the story of her great, great uncle, Colwyn Kelly and his RAAF involvement in the Second World War. Olivia completed independent research, contacting organisations in the UK to develop an engaging and considered reflection on Colwyn's



role in the Australian Armed Forces during the Battle of the Atlantic.

Megan Tucker

Leader of Literacy and HASS

R.A.A.F Association – Victorian Division
Sunderland Branch



A.C.N. 004250 248

Incorporating 10 Squadron RAAF, the first RAAF Squadron in action in W.W.II;
461 Squadron RAAF, The Anzac Squadron; and 13 RAF Squadrons

Since the announcement of the award, Olivia has visited 10 Squadron where she was hosted by the CO WNG COMD Maz Jovanovich. She was briefed on the Squadron and introduced to the PC3 Flight Simulator. I know she thoroughly enjoyed the experience and successfully landed several times. Well done.

Our congratulations are extended to Olivia, a wonderful example of our young people with an appreciation for the sacrifices of our servicemen and service women, in particular our RAAF personnel.



Olivia, her Mum and Instructor Marc Smith ready for the briefing on the aircraft.

On 1st December a very successful Dudley Marrows Memorial Trophy Dinner was held to recognise members of 10 Squadron who had demonstrated outstanding service during the year. See below for a full report.

Secretary/Treasurer: Rick Hattam. Please address all, correspondence to Secretary: Rick Hattam,
5 Waurn Park Court, BELMONT VIC 3216, Phone 0418 994 759; rickyh461@gmail.com

Following on from the post Anzac Day Newsletter where I mentioned the new Sunderland Squadron Banners that were made for the 2022 Anzac Services I omitted to mention that the new banner was also paraded in the Mildura Anzac Day Service.

The photo left shows Marilyn Marrows-Voullaire with the Banner at Mildura.



Since my last newsletter I have been advised of the passing of Arthur Atkins DFC (625 Squadron RAF) at the age of 105 a long-time friend of the Victorian Branch Sunderlanders. RIP Arthur.

PAST EVENTS

RETURN TO POINT COOK CEREMONY – SUNDAY 6 November 2022

On Sunday 6th November, members and guests came together at RAAF Point Cook for AFA Victoria's annual Remembrance Day commemoration.

Following an Acknowledgement of Country by MC Peter Meehan, OAM, and the official March In, Chaplain (Squadron Leader) Keith Lanyon, (Retd) led a Call To Remembrance.

The Commemoration Service featured addresses by Group Captain Carl Schiller, OAM, CSM (Retd), National President Air Force and AFA Victoria President, Max McGregor with the Memorial Wreath laid by Max McGregor, followed by prayers, and the Ode of Remembrance.

Guests then moved to RAAF Base Williams, Laverton for a light luncheon at the Combined Officers'/Sergeants' Mess, after which author and historian, Mr Hugh Dolan gave a presentation on 'Overturning the Gallipoli Myth'.

To complete a most memorable day, Mr John Capp, OAM presented AFA Victoria with a manuscript by Mr Barry Barnes, OAM on the AFC No 1 Training Wing's operations near Tetbury, UK during the Great War.



Extract from AFA Victorian Division – Contact Magazine. Vol 77 Issue 4 – Summer 2022

R.A.A.F Association – Victorian Division
Sunderland Branch



A.C.N. 004250 248

Incorporating 10 Squadron RAAF, the first RAAF Squadron in action in W.W.II;
461 Squadron RAAF, The Anzac Squadron; and 13 RAF Squadrons

2022 DUDLEY MARROWS MEMORIAL TROPHY DINNER, THURSDAY 1 December 2022

Ten Sunderlanders, all from interstate and members of 10 Squadron attended a very successful 2022 Dudley Marrows Memorial Trophy Dinner in the Air Force Room at the Naval and Military Club, in Adelaide.



Front L to R Pam Urquhart, Anne Pike-Flaherty, Joy Mackellar, John McKellar, Min Hattam, Ricky Hattam, Prue Urquhart, Rear L to R Peter Dowling, Sue Dowling, Tim Jensen.
Apologies for the poor quality photograph

Once again all the nominees were worthy of receiving the Award, They all demonstrated the attributes of Courage, Integrity, Compassion and Leadership that reflect those of FLTLT. Dudley Marrows DSO, DFC, Chev.LH. The final three nominees were CLP Elisha Blogg, FSGT Shaun Ton and CPL Darren Malyon.

The Award winner was FSGT Shaun Ton, an Airborne Electronics Analyst – Electronic Warfare 3 (AEA-EW3).

FSGT Ton has consistently displayed exceptional technical mastery, in combination of this with his leadership, and his exceptional technical skills, social mastery and organisational understanding has continuously made unparalleled contributions to 10 Squadron and Air Force. He has gained qualifications that have been recognised beyond the SQN and reserved for only the most exceptional instructors across mission aircrew, who display the highest quality instructional techniques and appropriate demeanour. FSGT Ton's award of this qualification was

the first time a 10 Squadron enlisted member has received a MICA qualification and is indicative of his commitment

FSGT Ton's professionalism, positive attitude and work ethic are in keeping with the finest traditions of Number 10 Squadron and the Royal Australian Air Force.

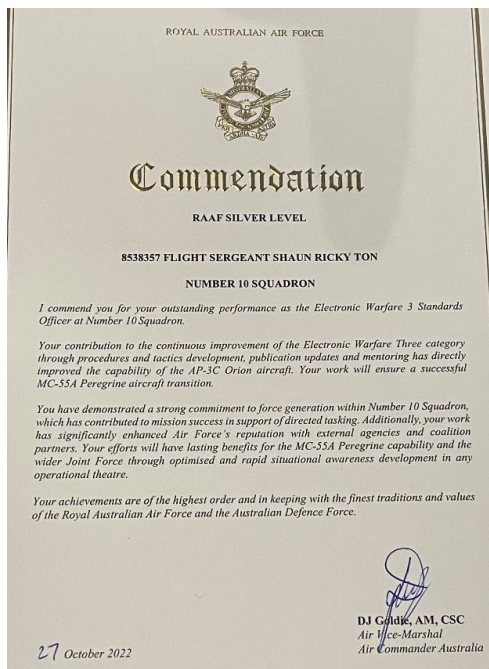
Congratulations FSGT Shaun, it was a pleasure to meet you and you wife Kate. Congratulations and well done. Dudley would be so proud to be assured that the Squadron's skills and expertise were in such good hands going forward and enabling the Squadron to "Strike First".



On the left the CO presents Shaun with Sunderland Model Trophy and on the right with the Award Plaque.

Towards the end of the function, the CO WNG COMD Jovanovich once again called FSGT Shaun forward and announced his award of a special Commendation from the Air Commander Australia.

The Commendation was to recognise his outstanding performance as the Squadron Electronic Warfare Standards Officer. The award points out that Shaun's achievements are of the highest order and in keeping with the finest traditions and values of the Royal Australian Air Force and the Australian Defence Force.



The RAAF Silver Level Commendation awarded by the Air Vice Marshal D J Goldie, AM, CSC, Air Commander Australia awarded to FSGT Shaun Ton for outstanding performance as the Electronic Warfare 3 Standards Officer a Number 10 Squadron.



R.A.A.F Association – Victorian Division
Sunderland Branch



A.C.N. 004250 248

Incorporating 10 Squadron RAAF, the first RAAF Squadron in action in W.W.II;
461 Squadron RAAF, The Anzac Squadron; and 13 RAF Squadrons

ELECTRONIC REFERENCES AND CONTACTS

Short Sunderland/Hythe, Sandringham & Seaforth/Solent. Face Book Group

Facebook group that might be of interest to some Sunderlanders – Short Sunderland/Hythe, Sandringham & Seaforth/Solent. It's a Private Group, but often has Sunderland, RAAF 10 and 461 Sqn content. Worth following.

Websites –

www.pooleflyingboats.com

www.ayemaam.com

TRIBUTE

407986 Warrant Officer - Joseph Colwyn Kelly (known as Colwyn), 10 Squadron RAAF 3 January 1917 – 17 May 1943

Born in Maitland NSW Colwyn grew up in Urania South Australia. On 27 February 1941 in North Adelaide, Colwyn enlisted in the RAAF. He undertook his Initial Training at Pearce in Perth and continued his air gunnery training No.1 Wireless Air Gunnery (1 WAGS) in Ballarat and later at Evans Head in Sydney.

Colwyn joined 10 Squadron RAAF and subsequently on 30 March 1942 he boarded RMS Queen Mary bound for the UK via New Zealand, the Panama Canal and the treacherous Atlantic Ocean crossing landing and disembarking in Port Glasgow, Scotland on 8 May 1942.

He marched in to the Squadron at Mount Batten, Plymouth on 16 May 1942. Colwyn as a qualified gunner (AG) was soon on operations.



On 1 January 1943, Sunderland W 4004 captained by Flying Officer Kerv Beeton and crew including Colwyn while conducting an antishipping reconnaissance patrol from Mount Batten successfully located a German blockade runner.

Beeton and his crew in response to intelligence report had been dispatched in conditions of high winds, low cloud and driving rain to search for the vessel. After over 8 hours searching employing a complicated patrol pattern the crew located the Rhakotis sailing at 10 knots in heavy seas. By the expedient laying a line of smoke flares the Sunderland guided the cruiser HMS Scylla to the location of the blockade runner which was subsequently sunk at 1830 hrs.

The Captain and crew subsequently received "personal congratulations on a fine piece of work" from the Area Officer Commanding-in-Chief.

The Sunderland landed at night at Mount Batten with the aid of searchlights as it was too windy to establish a proper flare path, with precious little fuel remaining after 13 and a half hours airborne.



On 17 May 1943 Sunderland W4004 RB-Z took off at 0517 on an antisubmarine (AS) patrol in the Bay of Biscay.

The Sunderland and crew were shot down with no survivors.

A quote from the Squadron CO WNG COMD Jeff Hartnell diary states that - "*Mackenzie (pilot of W4004) was shot down by Ju88 in the bay; we think about 8:30 am, we didn't know about it, until he was overdue, because he didn't send out any messages. Reg Marks (flight commander) went out looking for them at night but didn't find any trace. The 88's have been a bit active, and Mac was about the 4th of 5th in a couple of days.*"¹

German Luftwaffe records indicate that Sunderland W4004 was officially shot down by HPTM Hans Morr in a JU88 at 8.20am.

Colwyn was lost together with his crew mates at the age of 26, and like most of the Sunderland Squadron's casualties has now known grave.

RIP Sunderlanders



¹

R.A.A.F Association – Victorian Division
Sunderland Branch



A.C.N. 004250 248

Incorporating 10 Squadron RAAF, the first RAAF Squadron in action in W.W.II;
461 Squadron RAAF, The Anzac Squadron; and 13 RAF Squadrons

COMING EVENTS

2023 ANZAC DAY MARCH – MELBOURNE

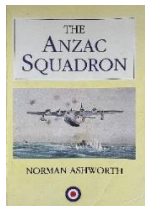
Details of our Form-Up Place (FUP) and timings I will send out in my next Newsletter.

2023 DUDLEY MARROWS MEMORIAL TROPHY DINNER

For your long term diary, the 2023 Dudley Marrows Memorial Trophy Dinner is likely to be scheduled between Wednesday 22 November and Friday 1 December 2023. The exact date will be confirmed closer to the date and will also depend on Squadron commitments. It would be great to once again see a good attendance of Sunderlanders at this special occasion.

SHOPPING SECTION

“ANZAC SQUADRON”



This book contains a wealth of information about Squadron members and relates the story of 461 Squadron the “ANZAC SQUADRON” by Norman Ashworth. Copies are available from the Secretary at a cost of \$55.00 per copy, postage and handling.

“MARITIME is NUMBER 10” Book – Currently out of stock

Sunderland Lapel Badges – “Sunderland” lapel badges are available from the Secretary at \$8.00 ea. packaging and postage paid.

10 and 461 Squadron Plaques

We now have both 10 and 461 Squadron Plaques in stock. The cost is \$70.00 including GST, postage and packaging.

VALE - 407986 Warrant Officer Joseph Colwyn Kelly, 10 Sqn. KIA 17 May 1943; The crew of Sunderland W 4004, 10 Squadron, lost KIA 17 May 1943; 418514 Arthur Atkins DFC 625 Squadron RAF.

LEST WE FORGET



Secretary/Treasurer: Rick Hattam. Please address all, correspondence to Secretary: Rick Hattam,
5 Waurn Park Court, BELMONT VIC 3216, Phone 0418 994 759; rickyh461@gmail.com

MEMORIES OF A SUNDERLANDER

We tend to look back, with a nostalgic gaze
To the time we were young, in our Air Force days,
As the years pass, this colours our view
So that memories assume a warm rosy hue.
What are the things I most recall?
I'll name just a few; I could never name all!
The white vapour trails, from dogfights on high
The drone of our engines, as our bombers fly,
The night bombing raids that came our way,
The flares they dropped, which made night like day,
The whine of the bomb and the crunch when it hit,
Fires all around when the incendiaries lit.
The ack-ack barrage, which rumbled like thunder,
The air raids that tore our towns asunder.
The tension one felt with the full crew aboard,
The powerful surge, as the Pegasus' roared,
The relief that one felt when we got under way
For another patrol out over the Bay.
How the adrenalin flowed when the Skipper said,
"Action Stations, Enemy Aircraft Ahead,"
Or, fired on by ship and avoiding the flak,
Or, sighting a U Boat and going down to attack.
The gloom that we felt, and deep sorrow too,
When one of our aircraft was long overdue.
A flight up to Oban, or perhaps Pembroke Dock,
A trip down to Gib, for some grog from the Rock.
Maybe off to London, the vistas to view,
Changing the guard, or the gardens at Kew.
The Tower of London or to yarn with a Cabbie,
St Paul's and St James or Westminster Abbey!
To Wales in the West, or the Scots in the North,
Or maybe the Lakes, we would sally forth!
But one memory, clearly, I have to this day,
Is the heart of the people I met on the way.
Romance was there, also, in pale moonlight beams,
Some of us met the girls of our dreams!
When I look back, some flights were quite chancy,
But now, all I'm left with are the 'flights of my fancy!'
As my thoughts wander back, many things come to mind,
But because time is pressing, they must be declined.
I've not mentioned the blackouts, the long twilight glow,
The N.A.A.F.I., the winter and snow.
We saw all these things, and a thousand more,
That we'd never have seen, had there not been a war.
Many times over, I've said to our kids,
"I wouldn't do it again, but I wouldn't have missed it for quids!"

A poem by 425495 WOFF Jack Edge, 461 Sqn.